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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/693,517	10/22/2003	Chun Yuan Chang	P5183	2227

7590 09/23/2004
Chun Yuan CHANG
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TAIWAN

EXAMINER

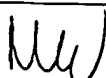
MORRISON, NASCHICA SANDERS

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3632

DATE MAILED: 09/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/693,517	Applicant(s) CHANG, CHUN YUAN	
	Examiner Naschica S Morrison	Art Unit 3632	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 October 2003.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 9, 10 and 15-17 is/are rejected.
7) ☒ Claim(s) 8 and 11-14 is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 October 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>102203</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This is the first Office Action for serial number 10/693,517, Hanger Assembly, filed on October 22, 2003. Claims 1-17 are pending.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: on page 7, line 27, "engaging" should be --engage--. Appropriate correction is required.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: numeral 41 in figs. 2-4. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

Claim 7 is objected to because of the following informalities: on line 2, "follower" should be --followers--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim 11 is objected to because of the following informalities: on line 2, "seats" should be --seat--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-7, 9, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,394,291 to Maier-Hunke. Regarding claims 1 and 4-6, Maier-Hunke discloses an adjustable holder comprising: a first frame (1); a second frame (1 - not shown; col. 2, lines 23-28); at least one auxiliary frame (1; see Fig.4) selectively secured between the first frame and second frame; wherein each of the first, second, and auxiliary frames includes at least one aperture (opening formed within 11) formed therein; wherein each of the first, second, and auxiliary frames includes an upper beam (5) and a lower beam (6), each having a plurality of orifices (18, 19) formed therein for receiving axles of sheet members (17). Regarding claims 2 and 3, Maier-Hunke discloses at least one peg (12) extended from the auxiliary frame (1) to engage into the aperture of the first frame to secure the first and auxiliary frames together and at least

Art Unit: 3632

one peg (12) extended from the second frame (1) to engage into the aperture of the auxiliary frame to secure the second and auxiliary frames together. Regarding claims 7, 9 and 10, Maier-Hunke alternatively discloses a first and second follower (12) attached to the first and second frames (1), wherein the first follower includes at least one aperture (holes within 12; see Fig. 4) and the auxiliary frame (1) includes at least one peg (21, when 17 is mounted to 1) extended therefrom to selectively engage the at least one aperture to secure the first follower to the auxiliary frame (1), and wherein, alternatively, the auxiliary frame (1) includes at least one aperture (19) and the second follower (12) includes at least one peg (21, when 17 is mounted within 1) extended therefrom to selectively engage into the at least one aperture (19) of the auxiliary frame (1) to secure the second and auxiliary frames together.

Claims 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 3,408,032 to Francis. Regarding claims 15 and 16, Francis discloses an adjustable holder comprising: a first frame (12); a second frame (12); at least one seat (95); and means (87, 90) for adjustably securing the first and second frames (12) to the seat (95); and at least one follower (86) secured between the first and second frames (12) and seat (95).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to

Art Unit: 3632

a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Francis in view of U.S. Patent 4,917,343 to Wainscott. With regards to claim 17, Francis discloses the adjustable holder as applied above, but does not disclose seat and follower each including a gear to secure the seat and follower at selected angular positions. Wainscott teaches an adjustable holder comprising a frame (3, 101), a seat (2), and a follower (11), wherein the seat and follower each include a gear (7, 16) for securing the seat and follower together at selected angular positions. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the adjustable holder of Francis by substituting the seat and follower of Wainscott for the seat (95) and follower (86) because one would have been motivated to provide secure locking of the seat and follower together at a plurality of positions and a simple and effective release of the seat and follower from the fixed position to a new position as taught by Wainscott (col. 3, lines 41-46).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8 and 11-14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if claims 8 and 11 are rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and including corrections to overcome the claim objections of claims 7 and 11 cited above.

Art Unit: 3632


Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: 1037233 to Furrow; 1278345 to Hiatt; 1634456 to Deuschle; 1825716 to Courtenay; 1990103 to Van Alstyne; 2743550 to Felice; 3760744 to Cruckshank; 4715502 to Salmon; 5624096 to Haynes; 6457591 to Lee; 6491171 to Maier-Hunke; 6776385 to Chang

The above references disclose adjustable assemblies relevant to the present invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Naschica S. Morrison, whose telephone number is (703) 305-0228. If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leslie Braun can be reached at 703-308-2156. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this Application should be directed to the Technology Center receptionist at (703) 306-1113.


Naschica S. Morrison
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3632
9/20/04


ANITA KING
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Mini Lecture

***Information to Pro Se Inventors
Regarding responses to Office Actions***

INTRODUCTION

An examination of this application reveals that applicant may be unfamiliar with patent prosecuting procedure. While an inventor may prosecute the application, lack of skill in this field usually acts as a liability in affording the maximum protection for the invention disclosed.

Applicant is advised to secure the services of a registered patent attorney or agent to prosecute the application. The value of a patent is largely dependent upon skillful preparation and prosecution. Although the services of a registered patent attorney or agent is advised, the Office cannot aid in selecting an attorney or agent. 37 C.F.R. § 1.31; M.P.E.P. § 401. However, Applicant is encouraged to peruse the publication entitled "Attorneys and Agents Registered to Practice Before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office." This publication is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

DISCUSSION

The following discussion provides general information for Applicant's benefit regarding an applicant's response, new matter, the period for response, and the certificate of mailing.

I. Response by Applicant

The applicant **MUST** respond to every ground of rejection and objection made in an Office action. 37 C.F.R. § 1.111. The applicant will generally present arguments that the examiner's rejections or objections were made in error; or amend the specification, drawings, and/or claims to overcome the rejection or objection. Amendments to the application may not introduce new matter. 37 C.F.R. § 1.118.

Unless the Office explicitly requests the return of a paper, all papers mailed to the applicant are intended to be kept by the applicant for his own records. **The response must be signed by ALL applicants.** 37 C.F.R. § 1.33.

The response must be identified by the Serial Number of the Application, the Art Unit, and the name of the examiner. An example follows:

Appl. No: XX/YYY,YYY
Applicant: James Q. Inventor
Filed : April 19, 2003
Title : Bucket with Handle
Art Unit: 3632
Examiner: John Doe

A. Arguments

Should the applicant disagree with the examiner's position, the applicant should distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the examiner's action with arguments under the heading "Remarks" in the response. 37 C.F.R. § 1.111. In addition, the applicant must discuss the references cited by the examiner that explain how the claims avoid the references or patentably distinguish from them. *Id.*

B. Amendments to the Specification

An amendment to the specification may remove a rejection or objection. Any amendment to the specification must be made by replacement of the entire paragraph/section. Additions to the specification should be underlined. Any deletions from the specification should be ~~stricken~~ through. Applicants must provide a marked-up version of the same paragraph or section showing changes. Clear instructions must be provided for the location of the amendment entry (e.g., paragraph number, page/line number). Deletion/Addition of an entire paragraph only requires an instruction to delete/add – no marked-up version required for deleted/added items. 37 C.F.R. § 1.121.

It is not necessary to submit a new specification unless one has been required by the Examiner.

Art Unit: 3632

An amendment to the specification should appear as follows:

Please replace paragraph beginning at page 5, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- In the construction of the bucket of this invention, various materials have been selected ~~and~~ which offer a number of diverse properties and allow for varied functions of the article. For caustic solutions, the bucket can be made of a durable ~~polymer~~ plastic material. Where an aesthetic appeal is desired, the bucket can be any of one of many attractive colors. The following listing of properties serves to define possible uses for the buckets. --

C. Amendments to the Claims

An amendment to the claim may remove a rejection or objection. *Any amendment to the claims must be made by replacement of the entire claim and the provision of a new copy of all remaining claims.* Applicants must provide a marked-up version of the same claim showing changes. Additions to the claim should be underlined. Any deletions from the claims should be shown with a line striking through the deletions, i.e., ~~four~~ legs. Deletion/Addition of an entire claim only requires an instruction to delete/add – no marked-up version required for deleted/added items. 37 C.F.R. § 1.121. Parenthetical information is to be provided after each claim number to indicate how many times the claim has been amended (e.g., "(Once Amended)", "(Twice Amended)", etc ...) or that the claim is an "original" claim. If a claim has been cancelled, then the claim number should be provided with the word cancelled written beside it. 37 C.F.R. § 1.119.

For example, if a claim to a chair was originally written:

1. A chair comprising a horizontal seat, a vertical back, and a plurality of vertical support members.

An amended version of this claim might then be written as follows:

1. (Once Amended) A chair comprising a horizontal seat, a

Art Unit: 3632

vertical back, and ~~a plurality of four vertical support members~~ legs attached to said seat.

In this example, the words "a plurality of" and "support members" have been deleted from the claim. The words --four-- and --legs attached to said seat-- have been inserted.

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An example follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (original): A bucket with a black handle.

Claim 6 (original): A bucket of claim 5 wherein the handle is metal.

Claim 7 (withdrawn)

Claim 8 (currently amended): A bucket made of ~~yellow~~ green plastic.

Claim 9 (previously amended): A bucket of aluminum-coated galvanized metal.

Claim 10 (previously added): A bucket having a circumferential upper lip.

Claim 11 (new): A plastic bucket having a blue handle.

D. Drawing Corrections

Finally, correction of the drawings may remove a rejection or objection.

INFORMATION ON HOW TO EFFECT DRAWING CHANGES

Replacement Drawing Sheets

Drawing changes must be made by presenting replacement figures which incorporate the desired changes and which comply with 37 CFR 1.84. An explanation of the changes made must be presented either in the drawing amendments, or remarks, section of the amendment. Any replacement drawing sheet must be identified in the top margin as "Replacement Sheet" (37 CFR 1.121(d)) and include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even though only one figure may be amended. The figure or figure number of the amended drawing(s) must not be

Art Unit: 3632

labeled as "amended." If the changes to the drawing figure(s) are not accepted by the examiner, applicant will be notified of any required corrective action in the next Office action. No further drawing submission will be required, unless applicant is notified.

Identifying indicia, if provided, should include the title of the invention, inventor's name, and application number, or docket number (if any) if an application number has not been assigned to the application. If this information is provided, it must be placed on the front of each sheet and centered within the top margin.

Annotated Drawing Sheets

A marked-up copy of any amended drawing figure, including annotations indicating the changes made, may be submitted or required by the examiner. The annotated drawing sheets must be clearly labeled as "Annotated Marked-up Drawings" and accompany the replacement sheets.

Timing of Corrections

Applicant is required to submit acceptable corrected drawings within the time period set in the Office action. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Failure to take corrective action within the set period will result in ABANDONMENT of the application.

If corrected drawings are required in a Notice of Allowability (PTOL-37), the new drawings MUST be filed within the THREE MONTH shortened statutory period set for reply in the "Notice of Allowability." Extensions of time may NOT be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 for filing the corrected drawings after the mailing of a Notice of Allowability.

II. New Matter

As previously mentioned, no amendment to the specification, claims, or drawings may introduce new matter. 37 C.F.R. § 1.118. "New matter" constitutes any material which meets the following criteria:

- (1) It is added to the disclosure (either the specification, the claims, or the drawings) after the filing date of the application, and
- (2) It contains new information which is neither included nor implied in the original version of the disclosure. This includes the addition of physical properties, new uses, etc.

Art Unit: 3632

See M.P.E.P. § 706.03(o). For example, in the amendment to the claim discussed above, the new limitation of "four legs" would not constitute new matter if the specification or drawings originally described the inclusion of four legs on the chair.

III. Period For Response

An Office action generally sets a time period in which the applicant has to respond to every rejection and objection (called a shortened statutory period). 37 C.F.R. § 1.134. This time period for response appears on the cover letter (form PTO-326) of the Office action. Usually, a 3 month shortened statutory period is set. M.P.E.P. § 710.02(b). The applicant's response must be received within the time period listed on the cover letter, or the application will be held abandoned. 37 C.F.R. § 1.135.

Currently, the Office allows the time period for response to be extended past the shortened statutory period up to a maximum of 6 months (called the maximum 6 month statutory period). In order to extend the period of response past the shortened statutory period, a request for an extension of time and payment of the appropriate fee is required. 37 C.F.R. § 1.136. The request must state that it is for "an extension of the period for response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)." The following table lists the required fees for extensions of the shortened statutory period:

Months Past Response Date	Fee Due (Small / Large Entity)
Response within Time Allowed	None / None
1 Month	\$55 / \$110
2 Month	\$210 / \$420
3 Month	\$475 / \$950
4 Month	\$740 / \$1,480
5 Month	\$1005 / \$2,010

It is important to note that no extension of time is permitted that extends the period for response past the maximum 6 month statutory period. Responses received after the maximum 6 month statutory period will be held abandoned. 37 C.F.R. § 1.135. Three examples are provided:

Example 1:

A complete response is filed four months and one day after the mailing date of an Office action. The Office action sets a **3 month** shortened statutory period for response. The response must be accompanied by a fee in the amount of \$210.00 (for a small entity; \$420.00 for a large entity) for a 2 month extension of time. The response must also contain a statement requesting "an extension of the period for response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)."

Example 2:

A complete response is filed five months and one day after the mailing date of an Office action. The Office action sets a **2 month** shortened statutory period for response. The response must be accompanied by a fee in the amount of \$740 (for a small entity; \$1,480 for a large entity) for a 4 month extension of time. The response must also contain a statement requesting "an extension of the period for response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)."

Example 3:

A complete response is filed six months and one day after the mailing date of an Office action. The Office action sets a **3 month** shortened statutory period for response. The response is held abandoned even if accompanied by a fee and a request for an extension of time. Remember, extensions of time may not be used to extend the period for response past the maximum 6 month statutory period. 37 C.F.R. § 1.135.

IV. Certificate of Mailing

To ensure that the Applicant's response is considered timely filed, it is advisable to include a "Certificate of Mailing" on at least one page of the response. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.8. This "Certificate" should consist of the following statement:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-450" on
(Date of Deposit).
(Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative)
(Signature)
(Date)

This "Certificate" may appear anywhere on the page, and may be handwritten or typed. *Id.* It MUST be signed by the person who actually deposits the paper with the Postal Service, and the date MUST be the actual date on which it is mailed. *Id.*

For the purpose of calculating extensions of time, the date shown on the certificate will be used as the date on which the paper was received by the Office, regardless of the date the Postal Service actually delivers the response. In this way, postal delays would not affect the extension-of-time fee.

Furthermore, Applicant is encourage to include with the response a self addressed and stamped postcard completely itemizing the papers submitted with applicant's response. See M.P.E.P. § 503. When the response is received by the Office, the postcard is date-stamped and returned to the applicant. *Id.* This is an applicant's best indication of the date the Office received the response and if all of the papers submitted have been received.

CONCLUSION AND CAVEAT

The above discussion is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all the topics that may be relevant to this particular Application. The information was provided to familiarize Applicant with the portions of a response that have historically caused problems for *pro se* inventors.

Art Unit: 3632

Furthermore, even if Applicant's response is in accordance with the information provided above, there is no guarantee that every requirement of the patent laws (35 U.S.C. §§ 1-376), patent rules (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.1-150.6), and Patent Office policy (M.P.E.P. §§ 101-2591) has been met. The adequacy of a response is determined on a case-by-case basis. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.111; M.P.E.P. § 714.02.